

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

A FLASH OF MILITARY SENSE.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The *Picayune* (New Orleans) states that General Reynolds, commanding the department of Texas, has adopted the following plan for protecting her northern and northwestern frontiers from savage incursions:—

"Commanding officers of posts, within what may be termed the Indian range, are ordered to enclose the citizens of the counties embraced within the limits of their respective posts for service, in co-operation with the troops, against the marauding and murderous savages of the frontier. The order, as we believe, carries into effect an order of General Canby to the same purpose. While out on service, the enrolled men will, only the approval of the commanding officer of the post, receive forage, subsistence, and ammunition, and they must provide their own horses, but shall receive no pay."

"We see no reason why these men should not be paid for rendering the country, and the command of its lawful authorities, an arduous and perilous service. They must leave their crops or their shops to ride night and day through forests and deserts in pursuit of wild, fleet, murderous savages; why should any public service be paid for if not this? And how can the frontier be defended more cheaply or more effectually than by armed and mounted frontiersmen?"

"Our regular army, so far as regards sending infantry against mounted Indians, is a farce. Sending regiments to the Pacific is a costly, barefaced swindle; but sending infantry and artillery to scour the Plains is no less so. You might as well send a tortoise after a crow. What we need in time of peace is the mere skeleton of an army, composed of capable, honest, experienced officers, under department commanders who can be trusted not to be fooled by false alarms. Let such commanders have each a colonel and three or four captains who know their business, with authority to call out one hundred to one thousand men whenever they should believe a savage incursion imminent; and let our army, so far as the interior is concerned, be composed of these alone. The Pacific Railroads and Overland Telegraphs have given us advantages hitherto unknown; and no district commander need be three days in mustering all the men he may need. Now, just disband or call off your regulars, and let the district commanders be authorized to call out so many volunteers as they may judge needed, paying each \$3 per day for food, horse, arms, and blanket, but sending no pay, as he is armed by the Government. We do not believe this system would cost so much as feeding our soldiers on the Plains now does; while it would render hostile Indians very scarce after two or three years. Why not try it?"

THE BOGUS TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

From the N. Y. Sun.

No well-informed person credited for a moment the sensational story sent over by cable that England, France, and Spain had taken initial steps toward forming a triple alliance against the United States. Those three ancient monarchies will find that they have ample work on hand in holding peaceable possession of territories to which they have some show of legitimate claim, without troubling themselves too much about the disposition of those with whose destiny they have no rightful concern.

Our recent English files show that Ireland is in a very disturbed and turbulent condition. The disestablishment of the Irish Church, which the Gladstone Ministry tenders to Ireland as a measure of peace, so far from curing the chronic troubles of a disaffected people, seems to be made the occasion by them for demanding fresh concessions from the British Crown. As to France, the cable now daily tells us of new and serious election conflicts, occasioned by the insane attempt of the Government to suppress orderly meetings of electors assembled to discuss public affairs. If Napoleon is half as wise as he is claimed to be, he will not forget that the efforts of his predecessor to break up the reform banquet of 1848 sent Louis Philippe into haste across the Channel, clad in a cheap fisherman's coat. And Spain, too, tossing on the surges of a revolution, distracted by struggling factions, and vainly offering her crown in the markets overt of royalty, is more likely to suffer shipwreck in the storm than to be able to make head against her Cuban insurgents.

So far from these powers entering into an alliance to arrest the march on this continent of a republic which contains three millions of men who have again and again been under fire in a war that has few parallels in history, they will be much more inclined to give us a wide berth in all matters pertaining to the Western Hemisphere.

Besides all this, Prussia and Russia, two of the foremost nations in Europe, have outstanding accounts to settle with England and France, look upon Spain with contempt, are cultivating close and cordial relations with this country, and would view with hostile eyes any alliance which these three powers might enter into against the United States.

Doubtless the telegram sent over the ocean was the hasty production of some small scandal-monger whose word would not pass current on the London Exchange or the Paris Bourse for a single share in any solvent railway in Europe. It had a slight momentary effect upon stocks, but it is now generally scouted, and that is the end of it.

THE GREAT ASIATIC SECTION OF THE UNION AND ITS VAST RESOURCES.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The completion of the Pacific Railroad, in connection with the wonderful discoveries of gold and silver recently made in our new States and Territories, from the great plains west of the Mississippi river to the Pacific Ocean, has awakened a new and general interest throughout the continent in regard to that interesting section of the United States. Its geographical features, here and there, soil, productions, and mineral resources, therefore, for the information of our readers, in a few general remarks, we shall make the text of this article.

The territorial area of the United States (excluding the detached four hundred and eighty-one thousand square miles of Alaska, which for all practical purposes just now may be left out in the cold) is in round numbers three million square miles—an enlargement from about eight hundred thousand square miles on the establishment of the Union eighty-two years ago. The section lying between the Mississippi river and the Pacific Ocean covers over two-thirds of this area of three millions of square miles. Leaving out the tier of States—Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana—on the west bank of the Mississippi, the country directly under consideration embraces the following States and Territories, east or in the Rocky Mountains:—

State.	Square Miles.
Nebraska	75,000
Kansas	83,000
Texas	250,000
Territories	
Indian	75,000
New Mexico	250,000
Colorado	106,475
Wyoming and Dakota	122,077
Montana	172,500

The vast dimensions of these States and Territories will be better understood by a comparison with the Empire State of New York, the area of which is within forty-eight thousand square miles. Of the agricultural resources of Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska, we need say nothing; but the last two, in addition to their fine soil, have valuable beds of coal. Of the above named Territories, Montana was placed first in agricultural resources, and it is hardly second in its golden mineral wealth. It has a thousand beautiful and fertile valleys, watered by the numerous mountain crystal streams which make up the great Missouri. In fact, as Minnesota is without a peer in her peculiar beauties, embracing as she does the table forest lands, with their countless crystal lakes, which are the sources of the Mississippi, so is Montana unsurpassed with her countless romantic mountain streams and lovely valleys which make the sources of the Missouri. Wyoming, covering the head streams of the great Yellowstone, has, with its mines of gold, copper and lead, many of the natural features of Montana, and the Pacific Railroad goes through the heart of the Territory. Colorado, with those grand and glorious mountain enclosures, North Park, Middle Park, South Park, etc., and with its lofty mountains of Pike's Peak, the Spanish Peaks and other snow-clad peaks, and with its head streams of the Platte river, and the Arkansas flowing east, and of the great Colorado of the Pacific, is called the Switzerland of America; but it is far more beautiful to the painter or poet, and infinitely richer in its soil, to say nothing of its gold mines, than Switzerland. New Mexico, further south, has a large extent of arid plains and desolate mountains; but from its great ranges numerous rivers, radiating east and west, invite the settler to their mines of gold, silver and copper, or to the production of corn, sheep and cattle in comparative plenty, poor as far as it is known, in minerals and arable lands; but the navigable Missouri winds through it for hundreds of miles, and this of itself will build up in time a powerful State.

So much for these Territories lying east of the west side of the Rocky Mountains. The States and Territories lying west of this great continental chain, and stretching over the still loftier chain of the Sierra Nevada to the Pacific, include the States of Oregon, California, Nevada, and the Territory of Washington, Idaho, Utah, parts of Colorado and New Mexico, and the whole of Arizona, the aggregate area being say eight hundred and fifty thousand square miles, or equal to eighteen States of the size of New York. California, built up from her gold mines, is destined to prove the richest State in the Union in her grain and fruits and roots of all descriptions. Oregon and Washington are rich in their timber, apple lands, and fisheries. Idaho has but little to depend upon beyond her gold mines. Nevada literally overflows with silver, and has some of the finest timber and rock-salt in the world. The Mormons of the watered valleys of Utah (a Territory generally desert) have made the most productive farms and gardens this side of California; and from their Great Salt Lake, at no distant day, millions of tons of salt will be produced. In Arizona (a gold and silver region) are, on the banks of the Gila river, some of the finest lands and the ruins of some of the most ancient cities on the continent. They are supposed to have been the cities of the ancient Aztecs, the same people whose splendid city of Mexico of a later date was the wonder of Cortez.

All this great western section of the United States, from the tier of States on the west bank of the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean, may properly be placed as part of the Asiatic section of this continent, while the country from the dividing line indicated to the Atlantic may quite as appropriately be called the European section in its prevailing natural features. In our Asiatic section, as in Western and Central Asia, we have grassy plains and deserts and rocky mountains, with occasional strips along their sides of timber and numerous streams, including rivers of considerable length, which have no outlet to the sea, but are absorbed by the sands, or emptying into isolated salt lakes, are evaporated by the sun, and general dryness prevails over all this Asiatic region. From a hundred miles west of the Mississippi to the towering Sierra Nevada chain, which follows north the line of the Pacific coast, the general level of the country is from four to five thousand feet above the sea, and from its altitude and prevailing dryness it is among the very healthiest regions in the world. Like the Asiatic Caucasian region, it is calculated to develop the white man in his physical perfection, the finest race of men and the loveliest women on the globe.

Ours is, indeed, a great country. We are great with a population inside of forty millions; but the western section we have been describing, with less than three millions of souls, is capable itself, with our modern appliances of art, of sustaining a hundred millions, and fifty millions may be conveniently added to our Southern States, with their twelve millions. The Pacific Railroad opens these boundless western regions to the emigrant, and the abolition of slavery and the establishment of equal rights open to him as invitingly, whether from Europe or Asia, the golden gates of the South. As for the African, there will be no more importations, and the living element of this race on hand will gradually fade away.

A NICE QUESTION FOR THE JUDGES.

From the N. Y. Times.

We understand that a new question of some interest is exciting attention in various circles:—Where does Commodore James Fisk, Jr., reside? Conflicting affidavits on this subject have been introduced in cases pending in court—some declaring on the one hand that he is a resident of Boston, and others that New York has the felicity of being his home. The point is not without interest for the Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington, who has taken steps, we are informed, to have it decisively settled—as he would like to know where the income tax from the Commodore is to be collected. This is not a matter of so much importance just now, perhaps, as it will be when he recovers all the damages he imagines his character to have sustained from libels, and for which he is now making diligent inquiries in courts of law; for his aggregate income, as returned by himself in Boston, for the last year, we understand, was only \$100,000. But the Revenue Commissioners, desiring a prudent eye to future look-out year for the tax on the million and a quarter which the Commodore hopes to get in exchange for war and tear of character. When this complicated question of residence is decided, our readers shall be informed of the result. Mr. Jay Gould, we infer, must have been doing a better business than his fellow-director, of late, as he returns an income of \$150,000.

DELAWAREAN BARBARITY.

From the N. Y. World.

A Philadelphia evening paper howls, and the tuncful Times, echoing, prolongs the howl, because the whipping-post is still extant in Delaware, and because ten persons guilty of petty crimes were the other day fastigated upon it. If these men had been imprisoned, instead of flogged, as indeed some of them

were both imprisoned and flogged, the indignation of these two journals would have slept. The families of the men might have suffered the destruction which the labor of their heads had been necessary to avert; the men themselves might have benefited the community by penitential contemplation of the chunks of a whitewashed wall for several months, instead of being turned out, with smacking backs, to earn their livings—the smacking backs serving as a memorandum that it would not do to steal them; and all would have been serene. Suffering and waste are nothing if only our sentimentalism is saved. Yet the Philadelphia paper had nothing to say against the gallows, a much more venerable implement than the whipping-post, when Twitchell was driven by fear of it into the exhibition of that ineffectual piety which has lately scandalized and nauseated a nation. In disregard of lived and unaltered sensibilities, people in general will continue to think it right that murder should be punished by death, and not a very horrible wrong that the larceny of ham should be expiated by thirty lashes. It is possible that, as in Solomon's time, the rod should visit the fool's back, nabby-pamby to the contrary notwithstanding.

PROSPECTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

From the N. Y. World.

Time enough has elapsed since the Presidential election, and events have made a sufficient march, to justify taking observations with a view to determine the latitude and longitude of the ship which has been moving or drifting on the never quiet sea of republican politics. Is the Democratic party sinking into an eclipse, or is it emerging into brightness, by the events of the last few months?

The first thing that challenges attention, in an inquiry of this kind, is the organization and working of the new administration at Washington. The Republican party has staked its future fortunes on the success of President Grant. If his administration should be strong, judicious, and popular, the Democratic party could make but little headway during the next four years. Its opponents, being at present in a majority, would probably be able to hold their own if the policy and the measures of the new administration were of a commanding public confidence, and were supported by a shrewd and long-sighted use of the Federal patronage—always a formidable influence in our politics if wielded by a President of steady, coherent views and trained political sagacity. But General Grant has, thus far, been of greater service to his opponents than to his partisans. In the first place, he has shown that he has no policy on the questions that must form the chief topics of political debate for the ensuing four years. He appointed for Secretary of the Treasury, first, Mr. Stewart, a pronounced and vigorous free-trader; and then, Mr. Boutwell, a high-tariff man of the Massachusetts school. For Secretary of State, he appointed, first, Mr. Washburne, a headlong, aggressive radical; and then, Mr. Fish, perhaps the most cautious, moderate, and conservative statesman of any real ability in the Republican party. Of the other members of the Cabinet it would be difficult to say what their opinions are, or whether they have any, on the questions which are looming into prominence. Certain it is, that the Cabinet has not been composed with a view to combine great weight of personal influence in favor of any definite policy on any subject requiring the future action of the Government. General Grant has bestowed the other offices in such a way as to shake and undermine the confidence of his own party. His errors and shortcomings have been widely blamed by the newspapers of his own party. There is a general confession that his administration has started badly and feebly, and that there is little likelihood that this novice and his Cabinet of nobodies will be educated into sagacity and vigor by the purposeless floundering which marks their dealing with public questions. Even in the affairs of the department which is presided over by the only statesman in the Cabinet, we witness nothing of the consistency, strength, determination which proceed from coherent and settled views. Who knows, for example, what the administration means or intends respecting Cuba? The inclinations of the President lean one way; the judgment of the Secretary of State another; and with regard to the expeditions sitting out to aid the insurgents, the Government wavers between secret connivance and open repression. Respecting the Alabama claims, the Government does not yet know its own mind, and Mr. Motley is to be sent abroad without any instructions that touch the core of the subject—a messenger without a definite errand. The Treasury Department changed its mind every day last week as to the use it will make of the bonds it is purchasing against the judgment of the whole business community. The administration drifts; it flounders; it gropes; it knows not what it would be at on any important subject. Of course, the party which placed such an ineffectual and purposeless administration in power put its own shame and weakness by its exposure. It is making of its incompetence, President Grant and his Cabinet are ploughing the ground deep for a great Democratic harvest.

But is the Democratic party growing in public confidence, and gaining the strength needed to enable it to take advantage of the blundering imbecility of its adversaries? The Democratic party must be judged, like the Republican party, by the vigor, sagacity, success, and credit of the officers it has elected to occupy its stations. In the Federal Government we have no power, and consequently no responsibility. Our chief triumph in the late election was in the State of New York, where, although we lost the Legislature, we elected the Governor. The Governorship of New York is the most important and responsible office at present in the hands of the Democracy; and so far as the party can be said to have any official representative and leader, that position must be conceded to Governor Hoffman. So far as the party staked its credit and reputation on him, it has no reason to be dissatisfied with his choice. He has strengthened the party in the State, and has added materially to the claims given him by his official prominence, to be regarded as among its foremost national representatives. His growing popularity and constantly rising influence render it probable that he will be re-elected, and that he will be looked to as the most conspicuous Democrat in the country throughout the whole period of General Grant's administration. In point of success, he is thus far a perfect contrast to the new President. Coming into office with an opposition majority in both branches of the Legislature, not much was to have been expected of Governor Hoffman, inasmuch as his sole instrument of power was his veto. He has afforded a signal illustration of how much may be accomplished with slender means by a man of clear and decided views and real sagacity. Unlike our ineffectual President at Washington, he had a perfect knowledge of the interests he was called to superintend, and brought to his office the capacity to form a prompt and enlightened judgment on every matter requiring his action. He has exercised the veto power more freely than it was ever before exercised by any ex-

ecutive, State or Federal, and, what is remarkable, there has not been a single case in which any one of his multitude of vetoes has been overruled. Most of them have extorted the applause of his political opponents, and have been commended by the Republican press. The country sees that a Democrat in power is not the dangerous and venomous monster which all Democrats were represented to be during the war. The only conspicuous instance of able, efficient, and thoroughly upright administration which the country has recently seen has been furnished by the Democratic Governor of the most important State in the Union, acting with the disadvantage of an opposition Legislature. Such an example will be likely to occasion wide-spread regret that equal sagacity, vigor, and clearness, equal straightforwardness, courage, and honesty, are not at the helm of the Federal administration. Such a contrast and such regrets are eminently favorable to the success of the Democratic party.

Another indication which augurs well for the future success of the Democratic party, is a recent exposition put forth by a Democratic leader who has brought as much obloquy upon the party as Mr. Hoffman has elicited praise for his personal prudence and integrity. We mean Mr. Vallandigham, who, in an article in a Western paper understood to have been written by him, explains that at the time he precipitated, in the Democratic National Convention, the crisis that resulted in the nomination of Governor Seymour, he really desired the nomination of Chief Justice Chase, and expected it to be accomplished by Mr. Seymour's persistence in declining, and his nomination of Chase as a dexterous mode of relief from his embarrassing position. We do not concern ourselves with this curious exposition as a matter of history; but it may be fairly accepted as a proof that Vallandigham is willing that by-gones shall be by-gones, and that the policy of the party shall hereafter be shaped with reference to the new issues which must arise out of a new state of things. When the leader of the "Copperheads" thus announces himself as the apostle of an ultra-progressive Democracy, we are justified in presuming that those same "Copperheads" do not mean to bind the party to obsolete issues, for the sake of vindicating their own political antecedents.

Another recent manifestation favorable to the prospects of the Democracy is the great outburst of zeal and interest in the free-trade question which the country is now witnessing, and the multitudes of recruits who are flocking to the free-trade standard. This bids fair to become the absorbing question of the period, a question which will renew one of the old battles of the Democracy. The party cannot but profit by the reanimation of a question with which it has been so long historically identified, and the success of a cause in which it has so earnestly and persistently labored. We have no space to gather up, at present, other indications in the signs of the times favorable to the prospects of the Democratic party; but we suppose it will not be disputed that those which we have mentioned afford real grounds of encouragement.

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